

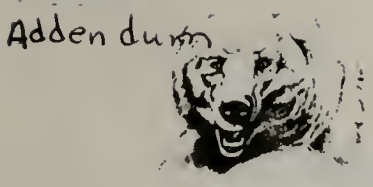
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STATE OF MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



Helena, Montana
February 24, 1978



STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 7 1978

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

Gentlemen:

You previously received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Placid Lake State Recreation Area, FG - 29.

A public hearing was held on January 26, 1978, in Missoula and written comments were accepted until February 8.

Excerpts from the public hearing, the written comments that were received, and the responses to the comments are attached.

Please attach this document to the original EIS as an addendum.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James A. Posewitz
Administrator
Ecological Services Division

JAP/sj/t
Attachments

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 7 1978

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930 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

Montana State Library



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ERRATA

Cover Sheet

The year 1978 should be included.

Table of Contents

The Fish section is found on page 10 instead of page 11.

Page 2

1. Salmon Lake is misspelled.
2. The scale should read 0, 5, 15, and 25, instead of 0, 5, 10, and 20.
3. We have been informed that secondary highway 209 has received an upgraded designation as primary 209.

Page 3

The asterisk at the bottom of the page should refer to pages 13 to 15, instead of 20 to 24.

Page 4

The campsites at Lake Alva and Lake Inez should be located at the upper instead of the lower ends of the lakes.

Page 7

1. The last sentence under "g" should read, "No hookups at"
2. Under "h" there should be a period instead of an ampersand at the end of the sentence. The first letter of the next word should be capitalized.

Page 10

1. The last sentence under "7" should include both rainbow and kokanee.

Page 12

1. In the last sentence under "1" the word, "aboriginal" is misspelled.
2. The last paragraph of "4" imparts an incorrect impression. The payroll for the wood products industry cannot be compared to the total receipts for hotels, motels, etc. A more accurate comparison is given on the next page.

Page 13

There are a total of approximately 85 cabin sites on the lake.

Page 15

The first sentence under "c" should read, "...most of them highway rest areas and fishing access to streams."

Employment and Earnings in Selected Industries
Missoula County
1974

	<u>Employees^a</u>	<u>Total Earnings</u>	<u>Average Earnings</u>
Wood products and paper	2,900	\$36,000,000	\$12,414
Tourist-oriented business:			
Eating and drinking places	1,294	4,454,738	3,443
Lodging places	463	1,629,907	3,520
Service stations	355	1,786,143	5,031

Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana, based on unpublished data from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Employment Security Division.

^aWage and salary workers only.

^bDoes not include tips.

Page 17

"7" should state that both rainbow and kokanee are not self-sustaining.

Page 25

Richard E. Juday, professor emeritus, and Edward J. Keller, lecturer, Department of Chemistry, University of Montana, Missoula, should have been included under "B."

Page 32

The wildlife list should have been credited to Reuel G. Janson, Region 2 wildlife manager, Department of Fish and Game, Missoula.

EXCERPTS FROM PUBLIC MEETING TRANSCRIPT

R. H. Robinson: At the northeast area you have the problem "...from the standpoint of safety - 14 automobiles backing out onto the [county] road."

Due to comments received and another visit to the site, the plans for this area have been modified. See plan attached.

R. H. Robinson: "Would you elaborate...on how you intend to implement the day-use end-of-the-day termination?"

R. Holliday: "All I can tell you is, we are going to do our very best at enforcing that regulation. I would ... not be truthful ... [if I said it was] going to be 100% [effective]."

Barbara Bush: "What will the regulation be regarding campfires...?"

R. Holliday: "...The regulation dealing with campfires says that campfires may be built only in areas provided.... As far as fuel is concerned, within the exterior boundaries of these two sites, vegetation will be protected by regulation. We are experimenting in other areas... [with] selling...firewood at a nominal charge."

Garlington: "...what the charges are going to be for a night or for a week...."

R. Holliday: "...\$10 [for a] seasonal use permit, ... or a \$2 a night one-time fee."

Garlington: "...many people will put their boat in at the south campground and then come up to the north [day-use] ground..."

R. Holliday: "...that's o.k. as far as we're concerned."

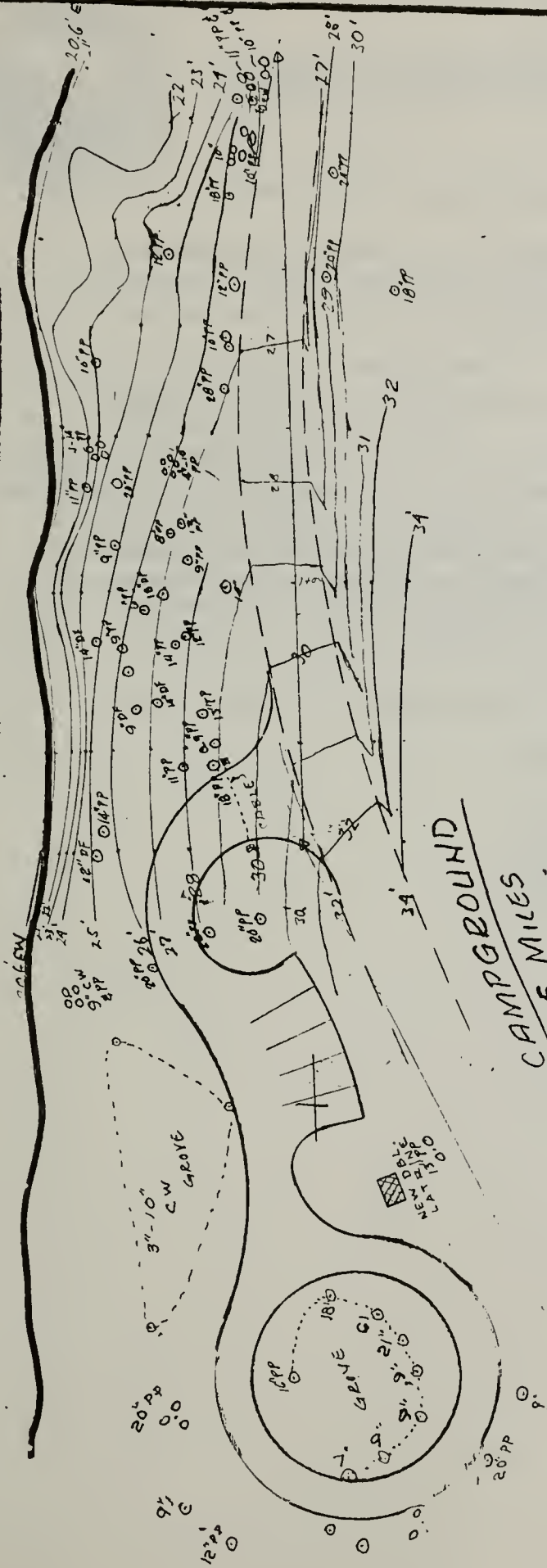
R. H. Robinson: "...what happens... [with] groups...attempting to reserve...an area...?"

R. Holliday: "...we may make... [a] special effort if we have some requests... but at the outset it won't be a reserved area...."

L.A. Robinson: "...what would be the cost of both sites...who will pay the caretaker ...by what authority will he regulate...?"

R. Holliday: "...\$280,000...federal money." The caretaker will be paid "...from our state parks appropriations.... The Fish and Game Commission, by law, has the authority to make regulations,...for any sites under its control."

RACID LAKE



Handwritten signature or name

Scale
1" = 50'

4150

Jim Rusk: [What] "...about the regulation for speed of the boats?"

The Fish and Game Commission does have authority to adopt regulations concerning boat speed in areas where public health, safety, or property is endangered. The situation will be monitored and if a problem becomes apparent, regulations may be adopted.

Barbara Rush (?): "...do you evaluate and have hearings... [in] 4 or 5 years...?"

R. Holliday: No, "...but...remember that we'll have a caretaker...to hear your problems. Then Mr. Greenwood lives here in Missoula...we're available in Helena...and if that doesn't work, then the Fish and Game Commission... has monthly meetings... [at which the public may present] their problems.... Mr. Land Lindbergh... [of] Greenough [is your commissioner for this area]."



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 NORTH ROBERTS STREET • (406) 449-2694 • HELENA, MONTANA 59601

January 10, 1978

Mr. Ron Holiday, Administrator
Parks Division
Department of Fish and Game
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Holiday:

I have reviewed your draft Environmental Impact Statement on Placid Lake State Recreation Area. Since no cultural resources were encountered during your archaeological inventory, and I have provided you with cultural clearance. I believe your draft sufficiently addresses our needs and provides adequately for the protection of unidentified buried deposits.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your draft.

Sincerely,

Ken Korte
State Historic Preservation Officer

KK/prb

410 Woodworth Ave.
Missoula, Montana
January 23, 1978

RECEIVED

JAN 24 1978

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

Mr. Ron Holliday, Administrator
Parks Division
Montana Fish and Game Department
Helena, Montana

Dear Mr. Holliday:

I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Statement and Development Plan for the Placid Lake State Recreation area and wish to commend you for thoroughness, conciseness and candidness.

It is obvious that all adverse impacts attributed to development will be and have been more severe under existing ownership.

Champion International is to be commended for their generosity and their foresight in recognizing the need for development and regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Draft Statement.

Sincerely,



Donald Aldrich

cc: Hugh Sackheim



MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
MONTANA COLLEGE OF MINERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701
(406) 792-8321

RECEIVED

JAN 18 1978

RECREATION & PARKS

January 13, 1978

RECEIVED

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

Mr. Ron Holliday, Administrator
Parks Division
Montana Department of Fish and Game
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Holliday:

You and your group are to be commended for the thorough job you did on the Placid Lake environmental statement. My only concern is with what I would regard as a somewhat extravagant presentation. I can imagine the cost of printing the report. Also, please note on the map on p. 2, Salmon Lake is misspelled, and the bar scale indicates that the distance from 0 to 10 miles is more than twice the distance from 0 to 5 miles. The content, however, looks complete, and as I said, your people deserve a compliment for their work.

Regards,

H. G. McClernan
Economic Geologist

HGM:esh

Bureau of Mines and Geology

- 1) The paper which was used in this report consisted of "leftovers" from other printing jobs. No special paper was purchased. The actual printing was accomplished in-house. The sketches which were included in the report were actually produced for another purpose and were reused. The layout took 16 hours to accomplish.
- 2) See the Errata Sheet concerning the other comments.

R.W. Boyd
4422 Edward
Missoula, Montana
January 26, 1972

Montana Fish and Game Dept.

Subject: expansion of the Placid Lake campgrounds

Dear Sirs:

As a summer resident at Placid Lake I am against further development of the Placid Lake campgrounds.

These are some of my reasons:

Placid is a small lake. It is difficult now to boat because of the congestion, particularly at the Owl Creek end of the lake. I have given up weekend fishing because of the number of boats on the lake. Water skiing has become very hazardous at our end of the lake, particularly on days when the campground is used. Swimming off the end of our dock is also very dangerous because the skiers have to make such tight turns.

Because of the winds, skiing is good only in the morning and evening, the same times that a person would normally go fishing. At our narrow end of the lake the wind comes up every day (with very few exceptions) about 1pm. and lasts until early evening. This shortened period of calm water further complicated the present congestion. More campers would really expand the problem.

In addition to the hazards caused by over crowding there is the problem of damage to local property and the environment.

Our cabin is close to the Owl Creek campground and last summer the noise was terrible, cars and motorcycles were racing up and down the road half the night. These were from the campground.

We have few enough natural places left. Lets leave the campgrounds as they are. Then we can all enjoy whats left of the naturalness of the area.

Since I was unable to attend the hearing in person this letter speaks for me.

Thank you.



Sincerely,
R.W. Boyd

R. W. Boyd:

This project is not intended to increase the overall use of the area significantly. We anticipate that use during the week will probably increase. Use during the weekend should decrease slightly. This will occur because of the limited number of parking spaces which will be available. When the area is full, it will be closed to additional campers. It is not anticipated that the proportion of motorboaters among the users will change.

The chances of damage to property should remain unchanged or be slightly decreased due to the presence of a caretaker on the area.

Late night vehicle traffic should decrease due to the presence of a caretaker and additional enforcement efforts. We do agree that the problem won't be entirely eliminated.

URGENT
FEB 1 1978
RECREATION & PARKS

31 January 78

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to encourage the closure of the campground on the Northeast end of Placid Lake.

My family has owned land on Placid for over 35 years and I have for nearly 10 years. Each season we have become more and more aware of "the campers". Certainly, campers have as much right to enjoy the lake as we ... and your plans for the Southeast campground are very impressive. My point is - the Northeast campground (probably because of its size) - has been abused by campers. During these transition years since the ACM Company owned these campgrounds the ^{increased} number of camper units and the almost complete lack of monitoring (← bad word - but you know what I mean) have combined to make the "campers" BAD GUYS on Placid.

I am in favor of complete closure of this area because, as you probably know from the records concerning these parcels of land, "Day Use Only" was tried with very little success. We even tried to help enforce this status (along with the area Deputy and the posted signs) to no avail. The past two seasons have seen units parked and pitched ('76 - 2 units; '77 - 1 tent) all summer long. - And our family record[#] of units sighted in the Northeast campground is twenty-three. (23!!!) Sanitary facilities are another point of contention. With all

the people using this area, I have NEVER seen a line at the outhouse. (down the road and up the hill)
What I have seen on at least five occasions is people squatting in the bushes! (I guess they were "roughing it.")
And while on the subject of mis-use of land, last August we saw two boys (approx. 12 and 15 years) carrying an ax south on the lower road. Upon our return from town, we noticed a live tree had been chopped down (on private property) presumably for firewood.

For the last 6 or 7 seasons (ever since the brand new landfill dump ~~down~~ ^{was} closed) my brother and sister and myself have been the garbage collectors for the Placid Lake area. (with PSC permit) While on our "route" we have stopped many times and picked up garbage strewn from one end of the campground to the other. And the sign "Pack out your trash" is clearly visible!

Not all campers are jerks. I'm sure you'll hear from some truly concerned people urging you to keep the Northeast Placid campground open. Please give the larger Southeast facility your total effort, though. Your plan is a good one - and there is "day use" included. (I think you'll find most campers are over-nighters.)

In closing, may I repeat...

PLEASE CLOSE THE NORTHEAST PLACID LAKE CAMPGROUND - COMPLETELY!

Sidney B. Poole (Mrs. Charlie A.)

510 State / Box 75
Helena, Montana 59601 / Seeley Lake, Montana 59808

Sidney B. Poole:

The problem of abuse at the northeast campground will be decreased under this project. Control and regulation of recreational users will be exercised by the caretaker through law enforcement personnel.

Several of the comments received suggested closing the northeast area entirely. This action may become necessary. However, we feel that it will be possible to limit and control the amount of use the area will receive. The plans for the area have been revised to eliminate the hazard of parking next to the county road and to provide a more controllable entrance area. If the area continues to be a problem and the department isn't able to limit use, the option of closing it entirely will remain open.

Department Regulations limit the stay of any individual in any park to 14 days.

The installation of latrines and a modern comfort station should decrease sanitation problems.

The department has no authority to enforce regulations except on department owned or controlled land. The problem of vandalism on private property will undoubtedly continue.

You are to be commended for your helpfulness and public spirit. Without individuals like you helping to keep our environment clean it would really be a mess. Thank you.

THOMAS C. POWER
P.O. BOX 131
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

RECEIVED
FEB 3 1978
RECREATION & ...
DIVISION

February 1, 1978

Parks Department
Montana Fish & Game Commission
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

My Dear Sirs:

This letter is written to you concerning the development of recreation areas on your recently acquired property on Placid Lake, Montana.

We have been land owners and part time residents of Placid Lake for some years and our interests are very deep. We are very interested in the methods that your Department uses in the development of the recreation area. At our Placid Lake meeting in August 1977, we enjoyed the explanation of the development given to us by your Department, and we are very pleased that we have the opportunity of knowing your thoughts and plans for these areas. We feel that the southeast area has great possibilities because of the area involved and could be made a most attractive and desirable area for campers.

We do feel that the Northeast area is most inadequate for recreational use and would go along with the proposal that perhaps the area should be closed entirely until the southeast area has been given a trial and more is known to the abilities and workings of the recreational areas. As you well know, the areas had no supervision and just how they will work with good supervision is an unknown quantity. There is no doubt in our minds that the boat docking facility at the Northeast area should be closed. And the thought of using it for day time use only does not sound very feasible since the amount of supervision would be tremendous, and who is to say how late in the day day-time use is, and so forth. In order to get to our cabin on Placid Lake we must drive by the Northeast area and every time we do go by we can only think of what a miserable place it is to camp. The road goes immediately by this area and the dust from the cars makes it most undesirable. At the present time there are no sanitation facilities, and why these people do camp there is beyond comprehension.

We are most pleased that your Department is taking over these areas on Placid Lake and assure you that we wish to cooperate with you. Our desire to have the Northeast area not just a thought of ours to discourage campers, but we truly believe the area is just not large enough to accommodate recreational use.

Thanking you for your interest in Placid Lake.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Power:

We agree that enforcement of use regulations at the northeast area is going to be difficult.

6 February 1978
Missoula, Montana 59801

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Montana Fish and Game Department
Park Dept
Helena, Montana

FEB 7 1978

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

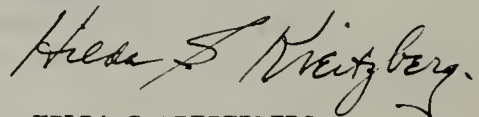
Gentlemen:

This is in response to your request for comments regarding the proposed campgrounds on Placid Lake.

It seems to me that the 1.5 acre area on the northeast shore, near the northern tip of the lake is too small and too near private cabins to be used except in a very limited way. Last summer one camper was there for several months and on weekends there were thirty-five to more units - much too crowded. Wouldnt it be better to fix up the 30 acre site, properly supervised, maintained and with adequate toilet facilities.

I have had a cabin on the lake for thirty years and spend the entire summer there so I am interested in the overall well being of the lake.

Sincerely,



HILDA S KREITZBERG
260 Strand Ave
Missoula, Mont 59801

Hilda S. Kreitzerg:

Use will be regulated and controlled. The 30 - acre site will be improved.

RECEIVED

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

2805 Queen Street
Missoula, Montana
February 6, 1978

Montana Dept. of Fish & Game
3309 Brooks
Missoula, Montana 59801

Gentlemen:

During the past ten years my wife and I have been one day at a time or weekend sport fishermen on Placid Lake. We do not own a camper or motorhome. Our "move" to Placid Lake followed the intense development on Seeley Lake, which completely changed its character from a quiet fishing lake to a hubub of noisy activity.

Realizing that one cannot forego progress and sharing with others in this day and age, I would like to bring to your attention the impact of what is being proposed. The eventual outcome will be another Seeley Lake, but so be it.

I would like to suggest some guidelines which may make a better development:

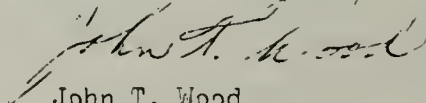
No campers or trailers should be allowed to remain in the camp area which are not being occupied. Presently on Placid's south end, camp trailers, boats and trailers are left day after day but used on the weekends only.

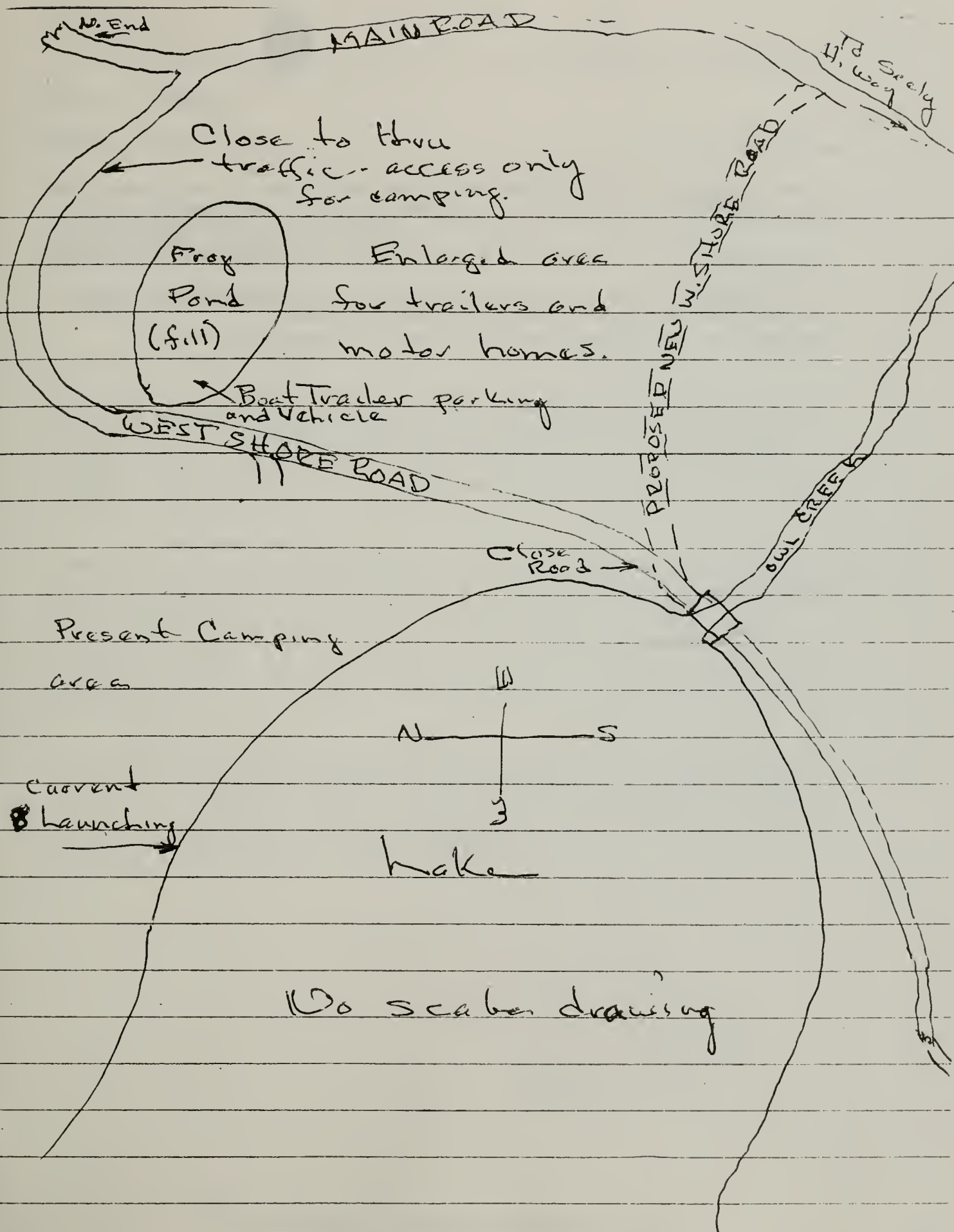
Most important is the availability of adequate boat launching facilities. Boats are now left on the beach at the launch site overnight, making early morning launching extremely difficult.

In a limited area, like southeast Placid Lake, we feel that it isn't necessary for campers and motorhomes to be right on the shoreline or closely adjacent thereto. I would suggest that you re-route the road at the south end of the lake to go south of the "frog pond" and connect to the bridge. Fill the "frog pond" for a boat trailer parking area, and remove the main west lake shore road from within the camping area. The moving of the main road for safety reasons is absolutely necessary. The enclosed diagram may better illustrate the suggestion herein described.

Thanks for listening.

Yours very truly,


John T. Wood



Close to thru traffic - access only for camping.

Frog Pond (fill)

Enlarged area for trailers and motor homes.

Boat Trailer parking and vehicle

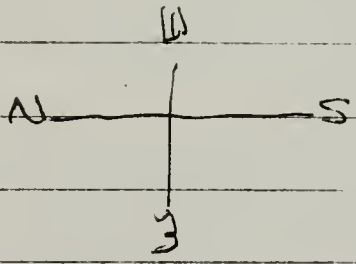
WEST SHORE ROAD

PROPOSED NEW WEST SHORE ROAD

OWL CREEK

Close Road

Present Camping area



Current launching

Lake

No scaber drawing

John T. Wood:

Our regulations limit occupancy to 14 days during any 30 - day period. Our regulations also prohibit leaving a camp unattended for more than 48 hours.

The caretaker will control and keep the launch area clear for use by others.

If I understand your last paragraph correctly, your suggestion is essentially what our design does without filling in the pond.

University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

February 8, 1978

Tom Greenwood
Department of Fish and Game
Missoula, Montana

RECEIVED

Dear Tom:

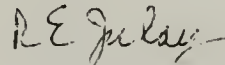
This is in regards to the proposed campground and day use area on Placid Lake.

After reading the E.I.S. and attending the public meeting at the Montana Power Building we feel that the campground is of sound design and will most likely have little, if any, impact on the water quality of Placid Lake. In fact, it might well help the lake by reducing the camping load and moving it away from the lake shore.

In regards to the day use area at the north end of the lake we do see an enforcement problem until the public is acquainted with the new use of that area. We suggest that the area, perhaps, be closed to all use for the coming season. The reasoning being that since actual construction is now set for summer '78 the area would have one season to recover from vegetation and erosion damage. This would also allow enforcement of the no camping rule this summer to get the public used to the new use of the area.

One thing that we are unhappy about is that after talking extensively on the phone with Tom Baskett and in your office, as well as providing him with copies of our annual reports on the water quality, plant inventory, and algae types of Placid Lake, he did not see fit to include us in the list of contacts and contributors or in the reference list.

Sincerely yours,



Richard E. Juday
Professor Emeritus



Edward J. Keller
Lecturer

mec

University of Montana:

The suggestion contained in the second paragraph is excellent. However, we are not sure how feasible it is. Without some method of establishing physical control, it will be extremely difficult to enforce. Plans and budgets for the coming year contain only enough money, for caretaker services and enforcement, to maintain the status quo.

We apologize for leaving your names off the list of contributors, It was inadvertent. Please see the Errata Sheet.

RECEIVED

FEB 6 1978

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

Missoula, Montana
January 31st. 1978

Montana Dept. of Fish & Game
Parks Division
State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Sirs:

I wish to comment on the proposed Placid Lake State Recreation Area, as outlined in your Draft Environmental & Development Plan. I was unable to attend the Missoula meeting on January 26th. inviting discussion of the Plan.

Our family built a cabin on Placid Lake in 1952. It is situated on deeded land on the northwest side of the lake. We are nearly due west, across the bay, from the smaller proposed "Day Use Area."

I served as president of the Placid Lake Cabin Owners Club for a number of years in the 60's, and have spent much time on the lake. This is especially true since 1963, when I retired from active business.

My comments relate to both tracts you propose to develop for public usage. In general I approve of your plans for the larger southwestern area. So far as I know, none of our cabin owners have ever objected to good public access. Properly supervised facilities for public use have been badly needed. Our lake group tried for many years to persuade Champion to turn over potential public camping areas on Placid to the Fish & Game Dept. Past public use of Champion shoreline lands constituted a very real threat to the area; through campfire hazards, garbage accumulations, unsanitary practices.

Our primary concern of your overall proposal, relates to the Size and People Capacity of the completed development. Placid is a rather fragile body of water. It can be completely ruined for everyone by extreme over use. The flow from Placid Creek across the southern end of the lake is small. It does not circulate through the main body, or the northwestern arm of the lake. Fresh flowing water is minimal for most of the year, certainly much less than through Seeley and other Clearwater lakes. So; some reasonable caution should be exercised in developing recreation grounds at Placid. I am convinced that too many people can destroy this somewhat marginal mountain lake.

My chief concern is the small acre and a half

tract at the northeast end of the lake. This is proposed "For Day Use Only." Herein lies our, and your, chief problem! The narrow strip between the county road and the lake is very small for extensive public use. We lake people know this from sad experience! I personally made and posted "No Shooting" signs twice for this small camp ground. Bullets from over-zealous target shooters have whizzed across the bay toward our cabins. On a number of occasions, we have called in county deputies from Seeley to resolve disputes, quiet late night revelry and to keep the county road open for through traffic.

I am quite certain that you cannot open this tract "For Day Use Only" without daily supervision during prime recreation periods. You will have to build very sturdy barriers to keep boats out. People have launched here for years. Rather massive impediments will be required to stop them.

If you provide potable water and toilet facilities, this small area will be over-run with pickup campers. Car-top boats and canoes WILL be launched here--over the barriers. You people will vastly multiply your supervision problems if you develop this "Day Use" area.

I definitely propose that you do not develop this small "Day Use" tract now. Picknickers are rather minimal at Placid. Nearly all persons coming to Placid have boats and desire to use them. At any rate, picnickers can readily be accomodated at the larger camp ground. Barracade off and sign the northern, proposed "Day Use" ground for the beginning, at least. There are established cabins adjoining this tract--none really close to the larger area.

We Placid Lakers all wish you good luck and success in your efforts. We will assist you in any way possible to develop compatible public camp areas.

Very truly yours,

A. L. Ainsworth

A. L. Ainsworth:

We appreciate your efforts and the influence you undoubtedly had with Champion in turning the Placid Tracts over to the department.

We do not anticipate significant increase in total public use of the areas. As mentioned earlier, the use during the week is expected to increase while the weekend use is expected to decrease. Water quality will be monitored.

We agree that daily supervision of both areas will be required. Present plans call for extra strong barriers at the northeast area.

No potable water will be provided at the northeast area. We agree that our supervision and enforcement problems will be significant.

Please refer to previous comments concerning closing the northeast area entirely.

RECEIVED

FEB 6 1978

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

GEORGE D. HOLLECKER

1112 19th Ave., S. W.

Great Falls, Montana 59404

February 5, 1978

Montana Fish & Game Dept., Park Division
Helena, Montana 59601

Gentlemen:

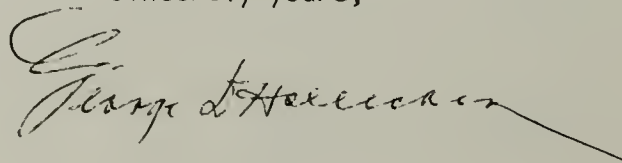
It is my understanding that a hearing was held in Missoula last January to discuss Placid Lake relative to the north east and south camp grounds areas, under proposed development by your department. Since we have a summer home directly across from the north east boat entry and camp grounds, I should like to express my thoughts on these proposed developments.

The 30 acre south camp ground and boat entry proposal could well be developed into a very satisfactory public use area, with enough public facility to handle as many people for boating and camping as this lake can be expected to accommodate.

At least, until experience with the south grounds development has been obtained, I feel the north east grounds should be closed to all activity. There has been in the past, many problems arising from the heavy traffic of use in this location, most of which you are probably aware as I have been, living directly across from it. It also appears to me that enforcement of any regulations for usage here, will be most difficult to enforce. In addition, I have witnessed many near misses of boats and water ski activity in this narrow part of the lake and it appears to me only a matter of time until possibly a bad or fatal accident will result from the boating activity in this narrow section of the lake.

I sincerely hope my sentiments expressed herein on your excellent proposed project will be of value to you in arriving at the best possible development plan for Placid Lake.

Sincerely yours,



George D. Hollecker:

Please see previous comments.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD - CHAIRMAN CECIL WEEDING, DR WILSON F CLARK,
VIOLA HERAK, WILLIAM BERTSCHE, DAVID G DRUM, ROY HUFFMAN, CHARLES HASH

DNRC
John C. Orth, Director

February 7, 1978

Mr. Ron Holliday
Administrator, Parks Division
Department of Fish and Game
Helena, MT 59601

RECEIVED

FEB 9 1978

RECREATION & PARKS

Dear Mr. Holliday:

Ed Miller and his staff in the Technical Services Bureau of our Water Resources Division have reviewed the draft environmental impact statement for the Placid Lake Recreation Area. The prime problem we have focused on in the draft EIS is that of the manner of sewage disposal and its effect in providing nutrients for Placid Lake. We offer the following comments.

1. On page 7 under h. and k., sewer systems and latrines are described. The sewer system will drain its septic tank effluent into a lift station which will then be pumped to a drainfield. The drainfield will be located in the flat area between the two camp loops. The problem with this is described on page 9, under item 2, Soils. After a discussion with Ken Chrest, our Soils Scientist, it becomes very obvious that there may be problems with the drainfield as designed. The Holloway, Winkler and Winkler-Sharrott Soil Associations have slope problems and angular gravel problems which can create rapid runoff of nutrients into the lake. This must be avoided.

2. On page 10, item 6. Vegetation, the algae which were identified as *Anabaena flos-aquae* and *Alphanizomenon flos-aquae* are blue-green algae. These algae can cause, and have caused, toxic blooms and have caused serious problems in lakes throughout the country. The most recent local illustration of this problem was in Hebgen Lake last summer.

The presence of blue-green algae as the most readily identified algae, indicates that these organisms are receiving nutrients from the lake presently. They are not normally a dominant part of the microflora in an oligotrophic lake. Even though this is a flow-through lake emptying through Owl Creek, green algae should be the predominant forms observed by the limnologists and phycologists. The work of Dr. Andrew Sheldon, Dr. Mark Oswood and Mr. James A. Gore should be continued. One person in their group should pay particular attention to the changes in algal species composition, and to the increase in populations of the water lentil or duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and Canadian water weed (*Elodea canadensis*). The *Potamogeton* should be able to utilize the excess nutrients which may be supplied through the river-lake system.

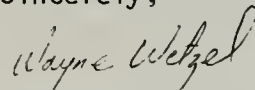
Page 2
Mr. Ron Holliday
February 7, 1978

If the beds of the *Potamogeton* and Canadian waterweed increase, and if the duckweed populations increase in large numbers, it can be assumed that a source of nutrients is coming into the lake.

If the septic effluents are able to regain entry into the lake due to inadequacies in the soil structure (i.e., insufficient fines for absorption), these nutrients will preferentially benefit the blue-green algae. This may produce algal blooms which can prohibit body-contact sports within the lakes. The high proportion of angular gravels and large boulders within these soil associations indicates the potential for rapid movement of the nutrients from the septic field into the lake again. An overdesign for the capacity of the drainfield is indicated. If the drainfield does have to move the effluents rapidly due to the soil structure, it would be advantageous for those nutrients to be directed through any bog areas that are on the lake. The bog flora then would have the opportunity to assimilate any of the nutrients present prior to the opportunity for blue-green algae to utilize the same nutrients.

If you have any questions or will require amplification of these statements, please notify Ed Miller or myself. The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft environmental statement.

Sincerely,



WAYNE WETZEL
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

WW/dd1

Department of Natural Resources:

We were aware of the soil restrictions for the types listed. We used the SCS soil maps for our determinations. Apparently the soil in the drainfield area is not true or typical of the listed soil type as percolation tests have revealed a rate of 1 inch per 35 minutes. The area selected for the drainfield has a slope of 2 percent. The field itself will be installed level.

We are aware of the possible algae problem. It will be monitored. Although they are probably aware of the problem, a copy of your letter will be forwarded to the Department of Zoology.

The present design for the drainfield includes three separate banks which may be operated either individually or together. Their total length is 1800 feet. A maximum design load of .85 gallons per square foot per day has been used. This design should be far in excess of what will actually be required.

While we are aware of the potential for nutrients entering the lake from our site we feel that the design will be adequate. Everyone is, or should be, aware that the campground is not the only source of possible nutrient entry.

RECEIVED

LAW OFFICES OF

SCOTT, LINNELL, NEILL & NEWHALL

FEB 8 1978

RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION

WILLIAM M. SCOTT
WAYNE E. LINNELL
KENNETH R. NEILL
NORMAN L. NEWHALL, III
RICHARD W. LANG

TELEPHONE 727-2200
414 MONTANA BUILDING - P. O. BOX 1484
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

February 7, 1978

Park Division
Fish & Game Department
State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59601

Gentlemen:

Re: Campground Development - Placid Lake
Missoula County, Montana

As a property owner on Placid Lake, we are familiar with the various proposals and alternatives being considered relating to the development and improvement of campground facilities on the lake. We understand that the Placid Lake Association which represents approximately 80 property owners on Placid Lake has gone on record in opposition to developing the small one-plus acre site into anything more than a boat launching facility and also has gone on record in support of improving the 30 acre site near the bridge as a all-round camping facility.

It has been our experience over the past 12 or more years that the one acre site does not lend itself at all to a camping facility. Its close proximity to private residences produces the usual private versus public kinds of conflicts, i.e. trespass, high traffic count (boats and vehicles), noise, litter and general congestion and confusion. During periods of heavy use during summer weekends, campers, vehicles, boats and boat trailers are jammed into the area overflowing onto the county roadway creating a highly hazardous, congested and undesirable situation to all concerned. At numerous times, when the more suitable and larger camping area near the bridge is nearly vacant, the one acre site is literally swarming with campers and related periphenalia. There are times when boaters are unable to launch their boats until campers relocate their equipment. The high density of people in this small area likewise creates a higher than normal use by boats of the small bay where this site is located.

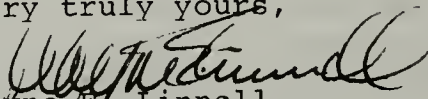
It appears to be an opportune time to designate and improve the one acre parcel as a boat launching facility only and to improve the large 30 acre site as an overnight camping facility with space and

February 7, 1978

accommodations for all interested in making use of the same. The use of the one acre parcel for anything other than a boat launching facility cannot be adequately controlled and is not the best use of the property for all concerned considering the interests of all parties in this matter.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Wayne E. Linnell

WEL:lcb

Wayne E. Linnell:

The northeast one-acre site is not intended to be used for camping. As pointed out earlier this will be difficult to enforce; however, we will do our best.

We do not feel the northeast area would be an ideal boat launching site. It is too small to allow adequate turning space, there is no room to park boat trailers, and the majority of people prefer to camp in proximity to their boats. The southern area meets all of these criteria and is, therefore, the logical location for boat launching.

RECEIVED

FEB 7 1978

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. Ron Holliday, Administrator
Park Divisions
Department of Fish and Game
Helena, Montana

Re: Environmental Impact
Statement - Placid Lake

Dear Mr. Holliday:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and suggest in connection with the Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Placid Lake Recreation Area.

My wife and I own a summer cabin on lot "G" of Beavertail Villa Sites on the north east bay of the lake, so that we have a vital interest in the lake and its surroundings as well as in all of the "outdoors." I am sorry we were not able to attend your Missoula hearing in connection with the public campground proposals for the lake, but I'm sure that Ty Robinson, who represented our Placid Lake Association, ably presented our views.

I do want to emphasize certain points for consideration, however. I was born and raised in Helena, and from the time I was old enough to be taken, my family fished and picnicked in Western Montana. I know what it was like fifty years and more ago, and like many others, yearn for the "good old days" but fully realize that they are gone forever.

For many years before we owned lake property, my family and I were members of the "public" and had to depend on public facilities or the cooperation of land owners to enjoy outdoor recreation, so I know and sympathize fully with those who must depend on public facilities. My sympathy, however, extends only to those who appreciate and care for public and private property.

I believe we have already reached a population growth and resulting outdoor recreation pressure when stronger limitations, in the form of enforceable regulations, must be placed on all of us. We all would like to think that our children and grandchildren will be able to appreciate, to some degree, what we now have left in the outdoors. To show the intensity of my feelings in these matters, I must say most sincerely that as an owner of 150 feet of lake frontage, I do not feel that I have the right to deface or degrade my property in any way that would detract from the shore line beauty of Placid Lake, and I have not done so.

We first started coming to Placid Lake as day users many years ago, and prior to World War II. Needless to say, it was then quite a contrast to its present condition. I am not a scientist, but I have avidly read and listened to knowledgeable persons and have formed what I hope are reasonably accurate opinions. I believe one of the prime factors making Placid Lake even more fragile than many other lakes is the reduction of the water supply under the unfortunate BIA agreement, which diverts much of Placid Creek water down the Jocko drainage. Under the best of conditions the BIA agreement drastically cuts down the amount of fresh water entering the lake. Based on years of observation, and trying to compromise what I'd like with what is practical I should like to submit the following recommendations for consideration.

1. The projected main campground should have a limitation on the number of persons using it at any one time. It is a comparatively small lake with a very limited year around average fresh water supply, and with over 80 cabins on leased or deeded land. Its comparative nearness to Missoula and easy access also encourages an inordinate amount of power boating and general use by the public. It must be assumed also that as gasoline becomes more expensive the recreation areas closest to population centers will get increased pressure. If you properly limit the number of main campground users, how will you enforce this and other rules relating to sanitation, etc.? Will campers, mobile home owners, and tenters be permitted to use this facility continuously or will there be a limitation on the uninterrupted use by any persons? In other words, can a camper stay all summer?

2. We who have an ownership concern as well as an environmental concern for the small northeast bay would strongly recommend that the very small area available for the projected day use camp ground not be offered at all for public use until it is known whether the main camp ground, now somewhat isolated from cabin owners, will not be able to handle all the public use limitation prescribed. I do believe, if it has to be used, your concept of "day use only" is good, but how do you propose to enforce this regulation? The restriction of no boat launching is good, and should help the day use only concept, but again, how do you enforce this on a daily basis? Sanitary facilities, in this very restricted area, is another extremely serious question. There doesn't appear to be room for any type of drainage system that would not endanger the bay and the lake. It has been our experience in the past that this area is inadequate

in size for any public use, and has been terribly abused. Over-crowding, and the resulting discord, noise, sanitary and traffic problems all summer long, have been distressingly apparent to all of us. As an example, several years ago the Anaconda Company gave us permission to place "No overnight camping" signs in this area. They were immediately torn down and burned. In addition nearby cabin owners have, from time to time, attempted to clear up the unspeakable filth left after a typical summer over crowded week end. It was not pleasant. I don't believe any but constant and every day supervision can solve the problems involved during the camping or picnicking months. Can, or should the state supply the necessary daily supervision to such a small area, which, even with proper use, would accommodate only a few people?

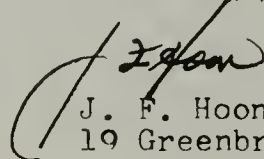
In closing, I realize that this is a somewhat emotional appeal, but I sincerely believe that the points I have made are valid and could apply, in some degree, to every one of our outdoor recreation problems in Montana.

My prime concern is not to preserve the lake and its surroundings in order to preserve my equity, but to protect and preserve the lake in the best way possible for everyone. Equity does not and never has meant that much to me.

We all appreciate the chance to have a say in this matter, and I want to assure you that I understand and recognize the ever increasing problems and pressures with which you have to contend. Do your best to preserve what we have left for future generations.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,



J. F. Hoon
19 Greenbrier Lane
Missoula, Montana 59801

J. F. Hoon:

We agree that a site which is as popular and receives as much use as Placid, must have enforceable regulations. We have had relatively good experience with our regulations.

Since the area will be closed when it is full, in effect it will have a limitation on the number of people using it.

The regulations will be primarily enforced by the caretaker. However, the caretaker has no legal enforcement capabilities. When he encounters any enforcement problems, he will rely on the Fish and Game wardens.

As mentioned earlier, a limit of 14 days stay will be enforced.

The "day-use only" regulation will be difficult to enforce; However, we intend to do our best.

We agree that there is no room to install a drainage system at the northeast area. Therefore, we will use a sealed fiberglass vault latrine. These units will be periodically pumped as required.

We realize that vandalism is and will continue to be a problem. We do wish to take this opportunity to solicit and encourage the residents of the area to record license numbers or any other pertinent data concerning any witnessed vandalism and report it. Please remember that it is actually your pocketbook these individuals are robbing.

You are to be commended for your efforts to keep the area clean in the past. I am sure it has been appreciated by virtually everyone.

We agree that supervision will be necessary. Present plans call for a caretaker to be on site during the heavy use season at least.



HELLGATE — 1860 — THE BEGINNING OF MISSOULA, MONTANA

7 February 1978

RECEIVED

Park Division
Fish and Game Dept.
Helena, Montana 59601

RECEIVED

To Whom it may Concern:

The proposed recreational development of campground areas at Flacid Lake, in my opinion, should be confined to the thirty acre plot at the southeast end of the lake. The smaller, northeast area, consisting of only one and one-half acres, should be closed to all public use.

I believe this to be the only feasible plan in view of the increasing lake traffic in the past few years. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gene Clawson, Jr.

111 Arrowhead Dr.

Missoula, Montana 59801

Gene Clawson Jr.:

See previous comments regarding, northeast area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Seeley Lake Ranger Station
Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

REPLY TO: 2340

February 8, 1978

SUBJECT: Proposed Placid Lake State Recreation Area



TO: Ron Holliday, Administrator
Parks Division
Montana Department of Fish and Game
Helena, Montana 59601

I have reviewed your Placid Lake State Recreation Area Draft Environmental Statement and Development Plan. Some comments concerning that document follow:

Page 2 - The vicinity map showed Montana Highway 209 as a secondary State route. Highway 209 was recently designated a State Primary Route. Reference is made on page 3 (and elsewhere) of "Champion's Placid Donation". Other places of the report refer to the matching LWCF monies. I think it is unclear whether or not the land is donated free gratis or if there is some charge involved.

Page 4 - The Clearwater Drainage map indicates existing campsites on the south end of Lake Alva and Inez. These campgrounds are in fact located on the north ends of the respective lakes.

Page 5 - The long range master development plan indicates a parking area on the boat ramp loop near the courtesy docks. Although this parking area is convenient to the courtesy docks I wonder what the visual impact from the lake will be.

Page 7 - (Paragraph e) The Forest Service installed modern comfort stations in the Seeley Lake Campground two years ago. The design of that structure was inappropriate for heavy snowload environments. We would be glad to discuss design features of comfort stations for this area which we have learned "the hard way".

- Page 7 - (Paragraph 1) Refers to both dumpsters and individual garbage cans. It has been our experience at Forest Service campgrounds in the Clearwater Valley that individual garbage cans are unnecessary maintenance items. Dumpsters placed at strategic locations are very effective.
- Page 11 - Wildlife. We recently had a study completed by a Dr. Sidney S. Frissell of the University of Montana concerning "Lakeshore Aquafauna Resource Study". His final report includes some interesting results and management recommendations which could easily be applied to the Placid Lake Development Area.
- Page 12 - Population. Our recent user studies indicate that next to Missoula County, Great Falls users are our most predominate clientele. Since your proposed development will be very similar to our developed campgrounds it could be anticipated that the proportion of the Great Falls users in the Placid Lake area may increase significantly, therefore, perhaps Great Falls population projections may be influential to the study area.
- Page 13 - (Paragraph a) It's interesting to note that your general picture of the shore users does not include Cascade (Great Falls) County users. Our visitor origin information indicates that about one third of our users are from Great Falls (about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the users are from Missoula). A disproportionate share of our violations are performed by the Great Falls clientele. It may well be that that group is attracted to the more developed type campgrounds. You may anticipate use of the Placid Lake Campground by Great Falls users and a corresponding increase of administrative problems.
- Page 15 - (Paragraph d) Although the average summer occupancy of the Seeley Lake Campgrounds is 50 to 55%, weekend occupancy of 85 to 90% is common and a significant factor to be reckoned with.
- Page 16 - (Paragraph 8) The third subparagraph refers to the proposed Coalstrip to Hotsprings 500KV Powerlines. Our latest unofficial information indicates that the proposed line is more likely to be located in the Clark-Fork Valley.
- Page 17 - (Paragraph 7) Fish. There is a discrepancy between this paragraph and Paragraph 11 on Page 10. Page 10 states that all species are self-sustaining except the Rainbow while Page 17 states that all fish populations are self-sustaining except Kokanee.

Page 18 - (Paragraph 3) A possible indirect environmental impact of the proposed development would be its occupation towards making the general vicinity a more desirable place to live. Subdivisions and private properties are leaning towards recreational residences. ~~The~~ proposed development will add to the future recreational style of year round and part time residence.

Page 18 - (Paragraph 3b) Although the project will have little effect on the areas utilities, prejudices against additional or larger powerlines will be increased.

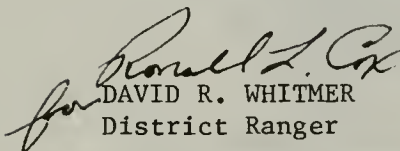
Page 18 - (Paragraph 4) In addition to your project expectations listed an added effect on the recreational use of the area may be a shift of users to other lesser developed lakes in the area. Additional site deterioration because of increased usage of displaced Placid Lake users may result.

Page 19 - While imposition of use fees at the site may generate a short term negative impact users of other Clearwater Valley charge sites accept fees readily. Periodic compliance checks of our self-service pay stations indicate a voluntary compliance rate of 85 to 90%.

Page 19 - (Paragraph 6) Thievery and pilferage in our developed campgrounds occurs periodically. Greater security will need to be provided to the Placid Lake area than now occurs.

Page 22 - A design alternative which should be seriously considered would be one which incorporates winter use. This would be an excellent jump off place for snowmobilers headed towards the Spook Lake area. Public access through private land along the Vaughn Creek Road will soon be gained by the Forest Service which would provide a very good snowmobile trail.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Placid Lake DES. When you get to the point of completing detailed site plans and administrative programs we would be glad to share some of our experiences with developed campgrounds in the Clearwater Valley.


DAVID R. WHITMER
District Ranger

Forest Service:

Page 2: - See Errata Sheet. Thank you, we were not aware of the change.

Page 3: - We attempted to explain this in the first paragraph on Page 1. We apologize if it was not as clear as it should have been. The donation was made at no cost to the state.

Page 4: - See Errata Sheet.

Page 5: - This parking area is screened by brush. The brush will be retained.

Page 7: - Our design for these units will be fairly massive, more for aesthetics than snow load. However, it should be adequate. Thank you for the advice.

Page 11:- We will be requesting a copy of this document from the Forest Service.

Page 12:- We agree that the proportion of visitors from any one area may increase. We don't believe total numbers will increase significantly.

Page 13:- Thank you.

Page 15:- It is for this reason and to provide some means of limiting use that the site has been designed with lockable gates. In addition, a sign warning that the campground is full will be installed near the highway and will be maintained by the caretaker.

Page 17:- See Errata Sheet.

Page 18:- (3) Your analysis is probably correct and it should have been included under impacts. It was an oversight.

Page 18:- (3b) We agree to a limited extent. The campground is already there and should be given almost equal weight whether developed or undeveloped. We would be extremely disappointed if any future powerlines were visible from the campground.

Page 18:- (4) This is an extremely good point. We regret that we overlooked it.

Page 19:- We are aware of the ready acceptance of charges by most users. That is why it was listed as only a short-term impact.

Page 19:- (6) Greater security will be provided by the caretaker. It has been our experience that undeveloped campsites receive their share of thievery and vandalism also.

Page 22:- Winter use was considered under the proposed action Page 7,Item 4.



STATE OF MONTANA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL
CAPITOL STATION
Helena, Montana 59601

Telephone (406) 449-3742

Terrence D. Carmody, Executive Director

GOV. THOMAS L. JUDGE or
Designated Representative
Lt. Gov. Ted Schwinden

SENATE MEMBERS
Terry Murphy, Chairman
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Richard D. Klingler
William D. Spiker

January 27, 1978

Dr. Robert Wambach
Director
Department of Fish & Game
Helena, Montana

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FEB 3 1978
ENVIRON. RESOURCES

RECEIVED
FEB 1 1978
RECREATION & PARKS
DIVISION


Attention: Mr. Ron Holliday, Administrator
Parks Division

Dear Dr. Wambach:

This will acknowledge receipt of the draft environmental
impact statement for Placid Lake State Recreation Area.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the above document
and have no comment at this time.

Sincerely,


TERRENCE D. CARMODY
Executive Director

TDC/mb

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Missoula, Montana 59801

(406) 543-5234

January 30, 1978

REC

JAN 31

RECREATION & PARKS

Richard Mayer, Chief
Design and Construction Bureau
Parks Division
Department of Fish and Game
Helena, MT 59601

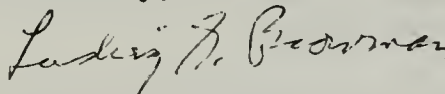
SUBJECT: Placid and Salmon Lakes

Dear Mr. Mayer:

In response to your letter of January 12, 1978 concerning the Fish and Game Department's plans to construct recreation improvements at Placid and Salmon Lakes, Missoula County presently has not formulated any regulations to implement the Lakeshore Protection Act. This item is part of our Fiscal Year 1978 work program.

Nevertheless, we have reviewed the plans for improvements which you propose, and we do not feel the improvements would create any problems.

Sincerely,



Ludvig G. Browman
Chairman

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

RECEIVED

JAN 27 1978

RECREATION & PARKS

January 25, 1978

Mr. Ron Holliday
Administrator
Parks Division
Department of Fish and Game
Helena, Montana 59601

JAN 30 1978
FISH & GAME DEPT.

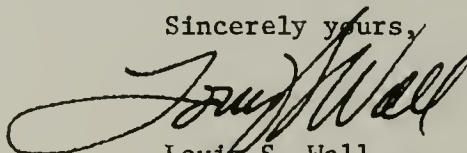
Dear Mr. Holliday:

This is in response to your request of January 6, 1978, for comments on the draft environmental statement (DES) for the Placid Lake State Recreation Area, Montana.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) the Council is charged with the responsibility of providing Federal agencies with comments on their undertakings which affect cultural properties. Until the Council has been notified by a Federal agency that it has determined an undertaking, in which it is involved, will affect a property included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the Council is unable to comment.

The Council on Environmental Quality's guidelines for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 directs Federal agencies to forward copies of environmental statements prepared for undertakings which will have an impact on cultural properties to the Council for review and comment. Therefore, because the Council has no legislative or administrative authority to comment to state or private agencies on their undertakings these comments are directed to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, to whom an application is being made for assistance with the proposed undertaking. It appears that the Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish and Game DES appears adequate concerning our area of interest and we have no further comment to make at this time.

Sincerely yours,



Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office of
Review and Compliance, Denver



Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
STATE OF MONTANA HELENA, MONTANA 59601

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Board of Health Building
(406) 449-3946

A.C. Knight, M.D.
DIRECTOR

January 23, 1978

Ron Holliday, Administrator
Parks Division
Department of Fish and Game
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

RECEIVED
JAN 25 1978
RECREATION & PARKS

Dear Ron:

Members of the Air and Water Quality Bureaus reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Placid Lake State Recreation Area and did not have any comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EIS.

Sincerely,
Tom

Thomas M. Ellerhoff,
Technical Writer

TME:rac

at

